

RESOLUTIONS OF THE 18th NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE
Tashi Namgay Grand, Phuntsholing
9-12 January 2017

THEME: PILLAR ONE- SCHOOL

Academic Session

1. Revision of the academic session from 2017 was endorsed as follows:

- 1.1 Winter break to be shortened by two weeks from 18th December to 31st January and reporting time for teachers and students will be 1st February and 3rd February respectively.
- 1.2 Summer break to be extended by two weeks from 1st July to 30th July and reporting time for both students and teachers will be 31st July.
- 1.3 Academic year for schools such as Laya, Lunana, Lingshi, Merak and Sakten, which are located in the higher altitude, will remain unchanged.
- 1.4 Class XI reporting time to be maintained status quo for 2017

Action: DSE

Private School Guidelines

2. While the draft private school guidelines is endorsed in principle, the clauses on physical infrastructure, service rules and regulations, fees, staffing pattern, scholarship to be revised based on the comments of the conference

Action: DSE

Budget for Science Equipment and Chemicals

3. Further review on actual requirement of science equipment and chemicals to be carried out for science practical.

Action: REC

International NFE Conference

4. The resolutions of international NFE conference were endorsed as proposed for implementation.

Action: DAHE

Identification of new Central Schools

5. Acknowledging the benefits of Central Schools, 9 additional central schools to be declared from academic session 2017 as follows:

1. Chumey MSS, Bumthang
2. Daga HSS, Dagana
3. Lhamoizingkha MSS, Dagana
4. Kidheykhar MSS, Mongar
5. Tashidingkha MSS, Punakha
6. Martshala MSS, S/Jongkhar
7. Jampeling HSS, Trashigang
8. Taktse HSS, Trongsa
9. Yebilaptsa MSS, Zhemgang

Action: SPCD

Premier Schools

6. While the concept of Premier School/School of Excellence is endorsed in principle, an in-depth study should be carried out to enable the Ministry to make an informed decision for implementation.

Action: DSE

THEME: PILLAR TWO- CURRICULUM

Promotion of Dzongkha in schools:

7. To promote Dzongkha language in schools, the following recommendations were endorsed:
 - 7.1 Dzongkha to be taught as one of the main subjects from classes PP-XII starting 2017 academic session. Students at all levels must compulsorily pass in Dzongkha to be promoted to the next higher grade. (Action: BCSEA/REC/MoE)
 - 7.2 The proposal to raise the pass mark for classes IX-X in all subjects from 35% to 40 % to be reviewed and presented in the next National Education Conference. (Action: BCSEA/REC/MoE)
 - 7.3 Adequate Dzongkha teachers to be recruited and deployed to schools to ensure that Dzongkha is taught by trained Dzongkha teachers from classes PP-III. (Action: HRD)
 - 7.4 Adequate Dzongkha Teaching and Learning materials to be developed and supplied to schools. (Action – REC)

Infusing EVS into Dzongkha and English for Classes PP-III

- 8.1 In order to strengthen language and literacy, Environmental Studies (EVS) to be infused into Dzongkha and English Curriculum for classes PP-III without losing its essence.

8.2 To support the teaching of EVS by Dzongkha teachers as in interim measure, the curriculum framework and guidelines to be made available by March/April 2017.

Action: REC

Review of the Class III and VI Year-End Examinations

9 In keeping with the National School Curriculum Conference resolutions, a review of the entire assessment system to be carried out for all classes (PP-XII).

Action: REC/BCSEA

Value Orientation Week

10 One week orientation programme on value education to be piloted in schools in the beginning of academic year 2017 to impart values, life skills education, Driglam Namzha, etc. to students.

Action: DSE

Standards for Inclusive Education

11 The Standards for Inclusive Education were endorsed as proposed for implementation.

Action: DSE

National School Curriculum Conference Resolutions

12 The National School Curriculum Conference Resolutions (NSCC) were endorsed as proposed for implementation. However, the proposed strategic plan of actions to be finalised in consultation with the relevant agencies.

Action: REC

III THEME: PILLAR THREE- TEACHERS

Teachers' Work Load

13 To reduce teacher workload, the following recommendations were endorsed:

13.1 Teachers to spend a minimum of 18 hours of contact teaching per week. Efforts will be made towards the Ministry's aspiration for achieving 14 hours of contact teaching per week in future. (Action: HRD)

13.2 Adequate support staff such as matron and warden to be provided to schools to boarding schools to enable teachers to focus on the primary mandate of teaching. (Action: HRD)

13.3 Teachers to make increasing use of ICT for efficient lesson planning and research works (Action: DSE)

13.4 Teachers to specialise in one subject to achieve One Teacher One Subject policy in line with the resolution of the National School Curriculum Conference. (Action: DSE/HRD)

13.5 Dzongkhags/Thromdes to review and rationalise the non-academic and non-professional workload of teachers. (Action: Schools/Dzongkhags/HRD)

Institutionalizing Transformative Pedagogy

14. The sustainability plans to institutionalize transformative pedagogy were endorsed as proposed for implementation.

Action: DSE

Professional Development of Teachers

15.1 In view of the general need for improvement in English language proficiency, the next professional development programme earmarked for 2017 is English language proficiency improvement for teachers.

15.2 Relevant Professional Development Programme for Dzongkha Teachers to be organised.

Action: DSE

Principal, Vice Principal and Teachers Career Progression (not decided to be finalised tomorrow)

16. To enhance career progression of DEO/TEO, Principal, Vice Principal and Teachers, the conference recommended to review the proposals submitted by the special committee at the conference, in the HRC Meeting before submitting to RCSC:

16.1 Teacher

- Creation of Master Teachers' position (full teaching load/wider opportunities)
- Master Lead Teacher (teaching+PD/limited slots)

16.2 Principal (Park)

- Entry for Principal to be fixed at P2A
- Candidates who aspire to become Principal must have held administration & Management position in P3/P2

16.3 Vice Principal

- Entry for Vice Principals to be fixed at P3A
- Complete two promotion cycles to reach P1
- Compete in open competition for higher posts

16.4 DEO/TEO

- Status Quo as per THRP 2014

- Create ES post for DEO/TEO from P1A to ES

Action: HRD

Recognition for the recipient of National Order of Merit

17 In order to recognize the recipients of His Majesty's National Order of Merit for excellence in Teaching and Leadership, meritorious promotion to be recommended to RCSC.

Action: EMD/HRD

18. Sherig Pledge 2017

18.1 The Ministry of Education pledged to organise Drama Festival to promote Performing Arts in School

18.2 The Ministry of Education pledged to make safe sanitary pads available to every girl student in Bhutan

Action: MoE/Dzongkhags/Schools